

10909

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL
OUTGOING LTR NO.

88 RF 0374



Rocky Flats Plant
North American Space Operations
Rockwell International Corporation
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Rockwell
International

Contractor to U.S. Department of Energy

February 2, 1988

88-RF-0374

Mr. Charles C. McKay
Church Ranch
18300 W. Hwy. 72
Golden, CO 80403

Dear Mr. McKay,

This is in response to your letter of December 31, 1987 regarding activities at the area designated as the West Spray Field.

I have recently been given responsibility for the "closure" activities at the West Spray Field. I report to Mr. Kirk McKinley and have worked extensively with both Mr. Tom Greengard and Mr. Rick Lawton.

Responses To Your Questions

1. Contact with the City of Broomfield regarding possible impacts on their two ditches will be conducted during the month of February, 1988.
2. The year for the schedule attached to Mr. Greengard's letter is entirely 1988.
3. The current schedule for closure of the West Spray Field is attached, indicating certification of closure in October 1988. This is a reasonable schedule if no problems are encountered during all of the required activities for closure. All efforts will be taken to expedite closure of the West Spray Field. The two most significant of the potential problems will probably prove to be the requirement of a public comment period and adequately proving to the State that the soil of the area is clean. During the public comment period comments from the members of the public are solicited on the closure plan, and responses must be made.
4. Comments were received from the Colorado Department of Health in January, 1988.

DIST.	LTR	ENCL
SANCHINI, D. J.		
SADER, C. P.		
CAMPBELL, G.W.		
HOOD, R. C.		
KINZER, J. E.		
KIRBY, W. A.		
MCNETT, J.F.		
MEYERS, G.W.		
SHANNON, W.M.		
SMITH, R.E.		
NEIDNER, C.W.		
NESTON, W.F.		
WILSON, G.L.		
WOZNIAK, B.D.		
YOUNG, E.R.		
BETCHER, D.H.		
CARNIVAL, G.J.		
HARMAN, L.K.		
HEBERT, J.L.		
HOEY, J.B.		
HOFFMAN, R.B.		
KRIEG, D.M.		
LIM, B.W.		
LOUDENBURG, G.E.		
NAIMON, E.R.		
NEWBY, R.L.		
ROECKER, J.H.		
VELASQUEZ, R.N.		
LAWTON, R.	X	
MCINLEY, K.	X	
GREENGARD, T.	X	
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL	X	X
CLASSIFICATION		
UNCLASSIFIED	X	X
CONFIDENTIAL		
SECRET		
AUTH. CLASSIFIER SIG.		
SL Cunningham		
2/3/88		
DATE		
IN REPLY TO LTR. NO.		
EC #		
APPROVALS		

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION
REVIEW WAIVER PER
CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

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5. Preliminary tests of the area indicate no contamination of the soil in the West Spray Field, but possible ground water contamination in the area with nitrates. Based on these indications, the attempt will be made to separate the issues of soil contamination and ground water contamination at the West Spray Field. This separation of issues is not normal in the process of closure, but reasonable reasons for this separation can be made and this approach has been used at other facilities. A meeting is scheduled with the State on February 9 in which this approach to closure will be broached. I will alert you of any problems that arise from this meeting or any subsequent meetings with the State.
6. A realistic expectation of closure is October of 1988. The problem of possible ground water contamination with nitrates may delay closure. Nitrate, the primary constituent of most fertilizers, appears elevated in ground water near the West Spray Field. However, this compound normally migrates through soil quite easily with little to no retention; hence the need for fertilization annually. I, therefore, expect to find little or no nitrate in soil at the West Spray Field, and no other contaminants due to the characteristics of the water applied at the West Spray Field. However, convincing the State and the public that the soil is clean will probably prove difficult. We will discuss these issues with the State and try to address all of their concerns in the sampling to be done this year. However, this approach has been taken with other plans and activities already implemented at this plant, and the State has always required more samples, data and explanation.
7. This project has been prioritized due to your interest in the land in question. All attempts will be made to shorten the schedule as much as possible.

Since you requested the facts associated with this project, I have tried to give you the facts and possibilities as they currently stand. I will keep you informed of any changes in this project as they occur. Again, all efforts are being made to close this area as soon as possible. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Frank J. Blaha

Frank J. Blaha
RCRA/CERCLA Program

Enc.

cc:
P. G. Currier DOE, RFAO